

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed August 10, 2007. Claims 1, 23, and 37 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-12, 23, 24, 26-38, and 40-52 remain pending in the present application. The following sets forth Applicant's remarks relating to the outstanding Action and the currently pending claims.

As an initial matter, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for taking the time on both October 11, 2007 and October 22, 2007 to discuss the outstanding Action and the presently pending claims with Applicant's undersigned counsel, Kevin M. Kocun. The above made amendments of the independent claims are being made in accordance with suggestions made by the Examiner during those discussions. Specifically, subsequent to the October 11th discussion, Applicant forwarded the Examiner a proposed set of amended claims, which were then discussed on October 22, 2007. The above made amendments were finalized subsequent to the October 22nd telephone discussion and Applicant respectfully submits that they constitute allowable subject matter. Specifically, as was admitted by the Examiner in the October 22nd telephone discussion, the main reference cited in the outstanding Action, U.S. Patent No. 4,608,898 to Volk ("Volk"), simply does not teach each and every one of the limitations of independent claims 1, 23, and 37. Given that the remaining claims properly depend from one of those allowable independent claims, allowance of each and every one of the currently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Nonetheless, because of the finality of the outstanding Action, the present Amendment is being submitted in connection with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). The Examiner is therefore requested to enter the present Amendment, and thereafter issue a Notice of Allowance in

connection with the matter. Should the Examiner have any issues with the currently pending claims, or wish to discuss the case at all, he is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel prior to issuing yet another written communication in this matter.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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